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Secretaries to Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies.

* 135 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts of Secretaries of the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Societies that are filled in by the Government;

(*b*) the names, caste, age, education and other qualifications of the men that are selected for the various posts;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some retired Tahsildars and other qualified men, though they were sent for training, were not finally selected; as they did not possess jail qualifications;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Muslims were excluded from holding these posts;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was not asked to select the candidates from among those who have got wide experience in the co-operative field;

(*f*) why the Co-operative department was not asked to organize these societies and undertake the supervision and audit of these societies even though these are registered under Co-operative Act; and

(*g*) whether it is a fact that in making the selection good educational qualifications or experience are not insisted upon?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) 184.

" (*b*) Over eighty per cent of the candidates selected are graduates in Arts, Commerce, Education and Law. Some of the candidates are double-graduates, and some are M.As., B.Com., M.A., B.L. Their age varies generally from 20 to 40. Information regarding the names, caste and the age of the candidates is being gathered and will be furnished later.

" (*c*) No. Only two retired Tahsildars applied for the post of Secretary and both were selected.

" (*d*) No.

" (*e*) Yes. The societies were organized by the Special Officer in charge of the scheme, viz., the Deputy Commissioner, Civil Supplies (North), and he was entrusted with this work for which he is responsible.

" (*f*) The Co-operative department was not asked to organize these societies as the producers-*cum*-consumers societies are concerned mostly with procurement work which is the responsibility of the Revenue department. Under section 3 of the Co-operative Societies Act, any person can be appointed as a Registrar and it is therefore not necessary that only the Co-operative department should be asked to organize these societies. In the case of the co-operative societies for demobilized soldiers Government have granted similar powers of a Registrar to the Director of Resettlement and his subordinate officers.

" (*g*) No. Vide answer to clause (*b*) above."

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K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us how many of these 184 persons are Muslims? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the Hon. Minister said that information is being gathered."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, I have seen some figures in the file. I think it will be able to satisfy the hon. Gentleman.

" As far as I am able to gather from the file, I remember three Muslims were selected and were sent for training, and after training they were employed. What happened was that they did not like their touring in the villages and the heavy work involved in the business, and so all of them left their jobs."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, what is the relationship of this special officer engaged in this work with the Co-operative department? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The relationship is that he is employed to look after these producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies, supervise all new societies that have been formed in Malabar and four societies in Northern Circars. He is responsible for the conduct of the work. His relation with the Co-operative department is very little because the whole scheme is managed by him really under the control of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies according to the recent orders passed by the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, at least in regard to audit why these new societies are not placed under the control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am unable to give the information just now."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The Hon. Minister said that about 80 per cent of the gentlemen employed are double-graduates, B.Ls. and so on. What about the other 20 per cent? Are they employed without qualifications? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It does not mean so, Sir. It is just possible a few of them may not possess all the high qualifications as the other 80 per cent possess. I have not got details. Eighty per cent of the people are well qualified educationally. As regards the other 20 per cent, if the hon. Member wants, I shall give details later."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What is the nature of the training provided for these men before they are placed in charge of these societies? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am unable to give the information just now."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Were any qualifications prescribed for these appointments? "

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The qualifications prescribed are evidently those of an educational nature. No special qualifications were prescribed, because the whole scheme is new. They have appointed a number of people to see whether they will take up this work. Those who did not like the work left their jobs."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Was there an advertisement for applicants? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know. I will ask for information."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know the number of Muslim applications? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have not got the information just now."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Why was not the Co-operative Department which has been in existence in this Province for so many years, asked to organize these societies? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I had already said in my answer that the whole scheme belongs to the Revenue Department and the work of the societies is one of procurement, and therefore, it was thought unnecessary that it should be given to the Co-operative Department. Though co-operative in its nature, procurement is really the work of the Revenue Department."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Government consider the necessity of giving due representation to all communities in view of the fact that these societies are entrusted with the more vital problem of procuring and distributing food and other necessaries of life? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Government have absolutely no bias in favour of one community or another. But the fact is that three Muslim gentlemen who were appointed did not stick to their places and found it difficult to get on with their work. I do not know how far Government could proceed in the matter, except by putting in other communities and getting on with the work."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Do the Government think that because three Muslim candidates left their jobs, no other member of the Muslim community will be found fit for the work? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not so, Sir."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" Sir, I am not a communalist. But since the claims of Muslims have been raised, would the Hon. Minister be pleased to say how many Christians have been appointed? " (Laughter.)

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I will call for the information, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, if these societies have been organized for the purpose of procurement, is it the intention of Government to wind them up as soon as their task is over? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The question of winding up any particular society shall come up only after some time. I do not believe procurement is the only job of these societies. It may be for the present that it is their job, but if subsequently they are found that they are doing useful work, I do not think why they should not continue."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government satisfied with the procurement operations effected by these societies? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Consistent with the time allowed to these societies to operate in their areas, I think most of them have done fairly well. Where the societies have not done well, Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility of trying to get the procurement work done by ordinary sources available to them, which was the practice obtaining till these societies came into existence. Such a position happened only in one district. In that district procurement has been entrusted to other agents."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the District Co-operative Wholesale Stores were entrusted with the work of procurement before these producers-*cum*-consumers' societies were brought into existence? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not aware of it. I will call for information."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If the Hon. Minister calls for information and he is satisfied that the co-operative stores did their work well even with regard to procurement, will he consider the desirability of stopping these producers-*cum*-consumers' societies? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think you should consider the desirability of putting this question later."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I may answer the hon. Member straightaway, Sir, that Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility, and that action has been taken in a district where procurement was not satisfactory. The hon. Member may draw the conclusion therefrom that Government are not clinging to these societies as such, but procurement only is the real factor."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, where these societies were not established, procurement work was being done by District Wholesale Co-operative Stores? "

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Generally, it was entrusted to the District Wholesale Co-operative Stores officer, and it was left to him to secure it in whichever way suitable to him to get the target for that particular district."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I suggest to the Hon. Minister to give figures of procurement done by the District Co-operative Wholesale Stores, because, as the hon. Member Mr. Ahamed Ibrahim said, there are co-operative stores entrusted with procurement work? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I know that there are co-operative stores entrusted with procurement work, but I cannot give that information on a supplementary question."

Extent of land to be irrigated under Thungabhadra Project.

* 136 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of irrigation area which will be brought under cultivation by the proposed Thungabhadra Project in the several taluks of Bellary district ;

(*b*) how much area will be irrigated with wet crops and how much with dry crops in each of the taluks ;

(*c*) the area that will be irrigated with wet crops in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions on the other side of the Thungabhadra river and how much dry ;

(*d*) how much electricity is developed under the scheme for utilization in Bellary district and adjacent areas ;

(*e*) how much electrical energy is developed under the scheme for utilization in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions :

(*f*) the reason for the extraordinary difference between the proposed area to be irrigated in the Nizam's Dominions when compared with that in British India ;

(*g*) the reason why more electrical energy is developed under the scheme by His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government when compared with that in British India ; and

(*h*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table, the agreement entered into by the Madras Government with His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government in respect of the sharing of the waters of the Thungabhadra and other incidental matters?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer [a] to the question placed on the Table of the House."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" With reference to clauses (*c*) and (*d*) may I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the area irrigated in Nizam's Dominions is three times more than that in British India and the electrical energy that is developed in Nizam's Dominions is 10 times more than that in Bellary district? "

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 605 infra.